

Commission Presidents

1976-80 Sarah Brabant
1981 Margaret Gimbrede*
1982 Isabel Gant*
1983 Marjorie Currey
1984 Augustine Ventroy*
1985 Bonnie Andrus
1986-87 Adelle Minnard
1988 Carol Behrens
1989 Elizabeth Dugal
1990 Iantha Ardoin
1991 Karen Rue
1992 Graci Ana Breaux
1993 Sharon Smith Darby*
1994 Joyce Ben
1995 Deborah Terribile Pooler
1996 Angela Mason Morrison
1997 Stasia Herbert
1998 Kathy Yates
1999-2000 Kathleen Sparrow
2001 Elizabeth Angelle
2002 Lou Anna Angelle
2003 Betty Delafosse
2004 Laketa Glenn
2005 Linda Boudreaux
2006 Ola Prejean
2007 Rose Hoffman-Cormier
2008 Tonya Bolden-Ball

***Deceased**

History

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy established the President's Commission on the Status of Women. States as well as cities followed his lead by establishing state and local commissions.

Because of the efforts of five women, Dr. Sarah Brabant, Dr. Doris Bentley, Isabel Gant, Margaret Gimbrede, and Jessie Livingston Taylor, Lafayette became the second city in Louisiana to establish a commission. They were instrumental in leading the steering committee that drafted a proposal for the commission, with assistance from the State Governor's Commission and the support of former Mayor Kenneth F. Bowen, which was presented to the City Council. As a result of their efforts, in 1976, the City Council concurring with the Mayor's recommendation passed a resolution establishing the Mayor's Commission on the Needs of Women now known as the Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women. Current City-Parish President, L. J. Durel, Jr., as well as past administrations have supported the Commission throughout the years.

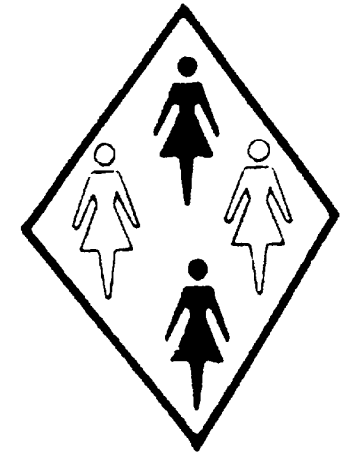
**Member of the National
Association of Commissions for
Women (NACW)**

Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women

P.O. Box 52082
Lafayette, LA 70505

LAFAYETTE COMMISSION ON THE NEEDS OF WOMEN

***Serving the
Lafayette Community
Since 1976***



1976-2008

Accomplishments

The Commission maintains twenty members on its board. The members are appointed by the City-Parish President on recommendations from the Executive Committee of the Commission.

Anyone interested in becoming a member or friend of the Commission should submit a resume which includes your past and present community involvements. Resumes are considered at least twice a year to fill any vacancies.

Mission Statement

- To facilitate an awareness of the status and needs of women by serving as a clearinghouse for information and services available to women in this community.
- To provide input at the local level regarding the concerns of women by making recommendation for policies and promoting programs that improve the role of women in this community.

- Endorsed the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.
- Introduced a listing of qualified women for appointed and elected positions in the city and parish, known as the **Talent Bank**.
- Assisted in the establishment of the **Rape Crisis Center** now known as the **Sexual Abuse Response Center**.
- Supported the concept of and the need for a shelter for battered women, now known as **Faith House**.
- Supported legislation for the continuance of non-welfare cases serviced under the Child Support Enforcement Program.
- Supported the development of the **Displaced Homemakers Center** now known as **Women Work Louisiana**.
- Hosted and moderated a Parent Forum in 1995.
- Honored Women In Medicine in 1996.
- Sponsored the “Women in the World of Work” forum, August 1997, in cooperation with area job development agencies.
- Developed a **Directory of Female physicians** in 1998.
- Established a Speaker’s Bureau.
- Annually sponsors the **Women of Excellence Awards** event.
- Conducted a “**Meeting of the Minds**” luncheon highlighting women’s needs.
- Developed a childcare directory in conjunction with the Junior League of Lafayette.
- Developed a directory of summer youth activities.
- Provided support to various emergency shelters and crisis centers.
- Based on a city and parish needs survey, developed a **Women and Children’s Resource Directory**.
- Co-convened with the **Governor’s Louisiana Policy & Research Commission on the Needs of Women** a public forum on health, education and employment in January 2001.
- Participated in the **2005 Louisiana’s Women Leaders Conference**.
- Debuted quarterly publication of the **Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women Newsletter** in March 2006.
- Established link at Lafayette Consolidated Government website, www.lafayettela.gov.
- Collaborates with nonprofit organizations to support and promote programs that improve the quality of life for women in the community.
- Received the highest level of distinction, platinum level for the **National Association of Commissions for Women—Healthy Bones National Project**.
- Sponsors a Breakfast Seminar for the Girl’s of Hope at N.P. Moss Middle School.
- Hosts a forum, “**Run, Girl, Run! - The ABC’s of Running for Political Office.**”
- Established **1st Annual Essay Contest** in connection with Women’s History Month.
- Hosts annual **Lafayette Women Leader’s Social** for women’s clubs and organizations.
- Annually supports the national “**Take Your Daughters/Sons to Work Day.**”

For More Information:

(337) 291-8447

Fax: (337) 291-5459

www.lafayettela.gov/lcnw.asp